



DIVISION I

2024-25 MANUAL

- (i) Entry fees; and
- (j) Other reasonable expenses.

12.02.2.1 Application Unless otherwise permitted by the NCAA constitution or bylaws, actual and necessary expenses may be provided only if such expenses are for competition on a team or in a specific event or for practice that is directly related to such competition. The value of such expenses must be commensurate with the fair market value of similar goods and services in the locality in which the expenses are provided and must not be excessive in nature. Actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual who participates as a member of the team or in a specific event. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

12.02.3 Calculation of Actual and Necessary Expenses -- Individual Sports and Women's Beach Volleyball. In individual sports and women's beach volleyball, the calculation of an individual's actual and necessary expenses shall be based on expenses incurred during each calendar year (January-December), rather than on an event-by-event basis. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, Revised: 1/23/19 Immediate; may be applied retroactively to expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2019.)*

12.02.4 Family Member. A family member is an individual with any of the following relationships to the prospective student-athlete: spouse, parent or legal guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, domestic partner or any individual whose close association with the prospective student-athlete is the practical equivalent of a family relationship. *(Adopted: 4/25/18)*

12.02.5 Individual. An individual, for purposes of this bylaw, is any person of any age without reference to enrollment in an educational institution or status as a student-athlete.

12.02.6 Intercollegiate Competition. Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following: *(Revised: 1/10/91, 1/16/93, 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 1/9/06, 7/31/23)*

- (a) Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- (b) Competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or
- (c) Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, housing, entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

12.02.6.1 Exempted Events. Participation in events listed in Bylaw 16.8.1.2 is exempted from the application of this legislation. *(Revised: 1/10/92)*

12.02.6.2 Participation on an Institution's Club Team. Participation on a collegiate institution's club team is exempted from the application of this legislation, provided the institution did not sponsor the sport on the varsity intercollegiate level at the time of participation. *(Adopted: 6/24/09)*

12.02.7 Limited Benefit -- Prior to Initial Full-Time Enrollment at an NCAA Institution -- Expenses from a Permissible Source. Prior to initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA institution, if an individual receives expenses from a permissible source (e.g., event sponsor, club team) that exceed the individual's actual and necessary expenses by \$300 or less, the eligibility of the individual shall not be affected. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

12.02.8 Limited Benefit -- Enrolled Student-Athlete -- Expenses from a Permissible Source. If a student-athlete engages in permissible outside competition and receives expenses from a permissible source (e.g., event sponsor, club team) that exceed the student-athlete's actual and necessary expenses by \$300 or less, the eligibility of the student-athlete shall not be affected and the institution is not required to submit a self-report of the infraction. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

12.02.9 Organized Competition. Athletics competition shall be considered organized if any of the following conditions exists: *(Adopted: 7/31/14)*

- (a) Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance;
- (b) Official score is kept;
- (c) Individual or team standings are maintained;
- (d) Official timer or game officials are used;
- (e) Admission is charged;
- (f) Teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined;
- (g) Team uniforms are used;
- (h) A team is privately or commercially sponsored; or

12.7.4.2 Administration. The following procedures shall be used in administering the form: *(Adopted: 4/24/03, Revised: 8/7/03 effective 8/1/04, 7/30/10, 1/23/19)*

- (a) The authorization/consent form shall be administered individually to each student-athlete by the athletics director or the athletics director's designee before the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics each academic year.
- (b) Signing the authorization/consent shall be voluntary and is not required by the student-athlete's institution for medical treatment, payment for treatment, enrollment in a health plan or for any benefits (if applicable) and is not required for the student-athlete to be eligible to participate.

12.7.5 Eligibility Requirements for Male Students to Practice With Women's Teams. A male student may engage in practice sessions with women's teams subject to the following conditions: *(Revised: 5/12/05, 5/29/08, 7/31/14, 4/26/17, 7/31/23)*

- (a) A male student who practices with an institution's women's team must be verified as eligible for practice in accordance with Bylaw 14.2.1 and must have eligibility remaining under the five-year rule (see Bylaw 12.8.1);
- (b) It is not permissible for an institution to provide a male student financial assistance in return for practicing with a women's team. A male student who is receiving financial aid or any compensation for serving in any position in the athletics department may not practice with a women's team. A male student-athlete who is a counter in a men's sport may not engage in practice sessions with an institution's women's team in any sport;
- (c) It is not permissible for an institution to provide a male student housing and food to remain on campus during a vacation period to participate in practice sessions with a women's team;
- (d) It is not permissible for a recruited male student-athlete who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier to participate in practice sessions with a women's team. A nonrecruited male student who is serving an academic year of residence as a nonqualifier may participate in practice sessions with a women's team;
- (e) It is permissible for an institution to provide practice apparel to a male student for the purpose of practicing with a women's team; and
- (f) A male student who practices with an institution's women's basketball team may participate in required summer athletic activities, provided the student was enrolled full time at the conclusion of the regular academic term (e.g., spring semester or quarter) immediately preceding the institution's summer term.

12.7.5.1 Travel Expenses In Conjunction With Away-From-Home Competition -- Women's Basketball. A male student who regularly engages in practice sessions with an institution's women's basketball team may receive travel expenses to participate in practice sessions in conjunction with the institution's away-from-home competition. *(Adopted: 6/26/24)*

12.8 Seasons of Competition: Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 12.02.6 and 14.3.3). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below: *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

12.8.1 Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall complete the student-athlete's seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official religious mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States. *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

12.8.1.1 Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period. For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.4) when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term (see Bylaw 12.8.2). *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

12.8.1.2 Service Exceptions to the Five-Year Rule. Time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is excepted from the application of the five-year rule. Among such services that qualify a student-athlete for an extension of the five-year rule are: *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

- (a) Military Sea Transport Service;
- (b) Peace Corps; or

- (c) Service as a conscientious objector ordered by the Selective Service Commission (or the equivalent authority in a foreign nation) in lieu of active military duty.

12.8.1.2.1 Elapsed Time/Service to Enrollment. If a student-athlete enrolls in a regular term of a collegiate institution at the first opportunity following completion of any one of the commitments described in the exceptions to this bylaw, the elapsed time (the exact number of calendar days) between completion of the commitment and the first opportunity for enrollment may be added to the exact number of days served on active duty in the armed services, with foreign aid services or on official religious missions and will not count toward the student-athlete's five years of eligibility. It is not permissible to extend the five-year period by any additional time beyond the first opportunity to enroll (the opening day of classes of the first regular term at the institution in which the student-athlete enrolls as a regular student immediately following the termination of the active-duty commitment). *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

12.8.1.2.2 Collegiate Enrollment Concurrent With Service Assignment. Any time in which a student-athlete is enrolled for a minimum full-time load as a regular student in a collegiate institution while simultaneously on active duty in the U.S. military, on an official religious mission or with a recognized foreign aid service of the U.S. government shall count against the five calendar years in which the student-athlete's seasons of eligibility must be completed. *(Revised: 4/2/10, 7/31/14)*

12.8.1.3 Academic Study Abroad Exception. Time spent participating in a full-time study-abroad program during a regular term of an academic year may be excepted from the application of the five-year rule, provided: *(Adopted: 1/19/17 effective 8/1/17)*

- (a) The institution recognizes the student-athlete as a full-time student at the time of participation in the study-abroad program;
- (b) At the time of participation in the study-abroad program, the student-athlete is academically eligible for competition and is not subject to an athletically related suspension;
- (c) The student-athlete does not participate in practice or competition with the institution's team and does not engage in outside competition while participating in the study-abroad program;
- (d) The student-athlete satisfactorily completes the study-abroad program; and
- (e) The student-athlete earns a baccalaureate degree within five years or fewer.

12.8.1.4 Internship or Cooperative Educational Work Experience Program Exception. Time spent participating in a full-time internship or cooperative educational work experience program during a regular term of an academic year may be excepted from the application of the five-year rule, provided: *(Adopted: 1/19/17 effective 8/1/17)*

- (a) The institution recognizes the student-athlete as a full-time student at the time of participation in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program;
- (b) At the time of participation in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program, the student-athlete is academically eligible for competition and is not subject to an athletically related suspension;
- (c) The student-athlete does not participate in practice or competition with the institution's team and does not engage in outside competition while participating in the internship or cooperative educational work experience program;
- (d) The student-athlete satisfactorily completes the internship or cooperative educational work experience program; and
- (e) The student-athlete earns a baccalaureate degree within five years or fewer.

12.8.1.5 Pregnancy Exception. A member institution may approve a one-year extension of the five-year period of eligibility for a female student-athlete for reasons of pregnancy. *(Revised: 7/31/14)*

12.8.1.6 Athletics Activity Waiver. The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or a committee designated by it, shall have the authority to waive this provision by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting to permit student-athletes to participate in: *(Revised: 1/10/91, 1/9/96, 1/14/12, 7/31/14, 10/17/19, 1/22/20)*

- (a) Official Pan American, Parapan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships, Olympic and Paralympic training, tryouts and competition;
- (b) Officially recognized training and competition directly qualifying participants for final Olympic or Paralympic tryouts; or
- (c) Official tryouts and competition involving national teams sponsored by the appropriate national governing bodies of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation, or, for student-athletes competing in a non-Olympic or non-Paralympic sport, the equivalent organization of that sport).

12.8.1.6.1 Junior Level Competition. The athletics activity waiver does not apply to junior level training, tryouts or competition (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, Junior National Teams) that may be associated with the training, tryouts or competition specified in Bylaw 12.8.1.6. (Adopted: 2/17/17)

12.8.1.6.2 Athletics Activity Waiver Criteria. Extensions of the five-year period of eligibility for student-athletes by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or its designated committee, shall be based on the following criteria: The member institution in which the student-athlete is enrolled must establish to the satisfaction of the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement (by objective evidence) that the student-athlete was unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a result of participation in one of the activities listed in the above legislation for a specific period of time. Further, such an extension shall be limited to one time and for a period not to exceed one year per student-athlete, per sport. (Revised: 8/11/98, 7/31/14)

12.8.1.7 Five-Year Rule Waiver. The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, or its designated committee, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, may approve waivers of the five-year rule as it deems appropriate. (Revised: 7/30/10, 7/31/14)

12.8.1.7.1 Waiver Criteria. A waiver of the five-year period of eligibility is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to participate in four seasons of intercollegiate competition within a five-year period. This waiver may be granted, based upon objective evidence under the following circumstances: (Revised: 4/17/91, 1/11/94, 8/10/94, 10/12/95, 4/27/00, 7/30/10, 7/31/14, 4/25/18, 5/19/22 applicable to a student-athlete who qualifies for a waiver that would provide the opportunity to participate in four seasons of competition within a five-year period)

- (a) The student-athlete did not use a season of intercollegiate competition due to an institutional decision to redshirt the student-athlete; the student-athlete was listed on the institution's squad list and was eligible for competition during the segment of the season that concludes with the NCAA championship; and the student-athlete was deprived of the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate competition in one other season due to circumstances beyond the control of the student-athlete or institution. (The use of this provision is limited to one time in a student-athlete's period of eligibility); or
- (b) The student-athlete is deprived of the opportunity to participate for more than one season in his or her sport within the five-year period of eligibility for reasons that are beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution.

12.8.1.7.1.1 Circumstances Beyond Control. Circumstances considered to be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution and do not cause a participation opportunity to be used shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (Adopted: 8/10/94, Revised: 10/12/95, 8/12/97, 1/9/06, 7/30/10, 7/31/14)

- (a) Situations clearly supported by contemporaneous medical documentation, which states that a student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate competition as a result of incapacitating physical or mental circumstances;
- (b) The student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a life-threatening or incapacitating injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, which clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;
- (c) Reliance by the student-athlete upon written, contemporaneous, clearly erroneous academic advice provided to the student-athlete from a specific academic authority from a collegiate institution regarding the academic status of the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete, which directly leads to that individual not being eligible to participate and, but for the clearly erroneous advice, the student-athlete would have established eligibility for intercollegiate competition;
- (d) Natural disasters (e.g., earthquake, flood); and
- (e) Extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in the family) experienced by the student-athlete or by an individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent, which prohibit the student-athlete from participating in intercollegiate athletics. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual upon whom the student-athlete is legally dependent.

12.8.1.7.1.2 Circumstances Within Control. Circumstances that are considered to be within the control of the student-athlete or the institution and cause a participation opportunity to be used include, but are not limited to, the following: (Adopted: 8/10/94, Revised: 10/12/95, 10/9/96, 7/30/10, 7/31/14)

- (a) A student-athlete's decision to attend an institution that does not sponsor the student-athlete's sport, or decides not to participate at an institution that does sponsor the sport;

Labor Day weekend) and between terms when classes are not in session (e.g., winter break)], such an individual is not permitted to practice or compete on an institutional club team or on an outside sports team, including a national team. (Adopted: 1/10/13)

14.3.3 Seasons of Competition -- Nonqualifiers. Nonqualifiers, recruited or nonrecruited, shall not engage in more than three seasons of competition in any one sport. A student who transfers to a Division I member institution from another collegiate institution shall not engage in more than four seasons of competition with not more than three of those seasons in Division I.

14.3.3.1 Application of Delayed Enrollment Legislation. A student-athlete who is charged with a season (or seasons) of eligibility due to the application of delayed enrollment legislation (Bylaws 12.8.3.2 and 12.8.3.5) is considered to have used that season (or seasons) of competition for purposes of Bylaw 14.3.3. (Revised: 7/15/15)

14.3.3.2 Fourth Season of Competition -- Nonqualifiers. A fourth season of intercollegiate competition shall be granted to a student-athlete who is a nonqualifier, provided that at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has completed at least 80 percent of the student-athlete's designated degree program. (Revised: 4/28/05 effective 8/1/05, 1/3/06, 10/27/11, 4/26/12 effective 8/1/16 for student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/16)

14.3.3.2.1 Waiver. The Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee (see Bylaw 21.7.5.1.3.2) shall have the authority to grant a fourth season of intercollegiate competition to a student-athlete who is a nonqualifier based on objective evidence of extraordinary circumstances that warrant a waiver of the normal application of this regulation. (Adopted: 1/13/98 effective 8/1/98, Revised: 4/27/00 effective 8/1/00, 8/4/05, 1/3/06, 11/1/07 effective 8/1/08, 1/16/10 effective 5/1/10, 10/27/11, 4/26/12 effective 8/1/16 for student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/16)

14.3.4 Residence Requirement -- Academic Redshirts and Nonqualifiers. An academic redshirt must fulfill an academic year of residence in order to be eligible to compete and to practice away from the institution. A nonqualifier must fulfill an academic year of residence in order to be eligible for practice, competition and athletically related financial aid (see Bylaw 14.3.2.1.1). (Revised: 1/10/90 effective 8/1/90, 1/10/95 effective 8/1/96, 1/3/06, 4/14/10, 10/27/11, 4/26/12 effective 8/1/16 for student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/16)

14.3.5 Determination of Freshman Eligibility.

14.3.5.1 Participation Prior to Certification. If a student-athlete reports for athletics participation or initial enrollment at the certifying institution before his or her qualification status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, during a 45-day period, provided the student meets all other requirements to be eligible to practice. An institution may provide athletically related financial aid to the student during this period, provided the student meets all other requirements to receive athletically related financial aid. After the 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements (as certified by the Eligibility Center) to continue practicing, to continue receiving athletically related financial aid or to compete. (Revised: 1/11/89, 10/7/05, 5/9/07, 9/18/07, 1/15/11 effective 8/1/11, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, 6/30/22 effective 8/1/22)

14.3.5.1.1 Effect of Violations. A violation of Bylaw 14.3.5.1 in which the student-athlete is subsequently certified as a qualifier shall be considered an institutional violation per Bylaw 8.01.3 but shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. (Adopted: 10/29/15)

14.3.5.2 High School Graduate. In order to be considered a high school graduate, a prospective student-athlete shall meet all graduation requirements, including academic and nonacademic (e.g., state exit exams, community service, senior project) requirements, as defined for all students by the high school or secondary school. (Adopted: 4/23/08)

14.3.5.2.1 Equivalency Test/Diploma. A prospective student-athlete who does not graduate from high school but completes a state high school equivalency test [e.g., General Educational Development (GED)] and obtains a state high school equivalency diploma may satisfy the graduation requirement, provided the equivalency test is completed on or after the high school graduation date of the prospective student-athlete's class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade) or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility]. (Revised: 6/16/04, 1/10/05 effective 8/1/05, 6/15/15)

14.3.5.3 Advanced Placement. If the student-athlete is admitted with a minimum of 24 semester hours or a minimum of 36 quarter hours of advanced placement from a College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) examination (or from a similar proficiency examination) and/or concurrent high school/college credit without previous enrollment at a collegiate institution, the student-athlete shall be immediately eligible. Credits earned from extension or summer-session courses may not be counted in satisfaction of this requirement. A "similar proficiency examination" must be an advanced or higher level,